

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063460

FOL REPEAT BANGKOK 4074 ACTION SECSTATE 23 FEB.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4074

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SEATO, TH

SUBJECT: PHASEOUT OF SEATO

1. PERMANENT WORKING GROUP HAS COMPLETED A FIRST READING OF THE DETAILED PLAN FOR THE PHASEOUT OF SEATO (SCP/76/D--2 DATED 30 JANUARY 1976). A CONSENSUS AGREES THAT THE PLAN IS A GOOD BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AND GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE ALTHOUGH CERTAIN ASPECTS WILL REQUIRE FURTHER STUDY AND INSTRUCTIONS FROM MEMBER GOVERNMENTS.

2. THE EMBASSY SHARES THIS PARELIMINARY ASSESSMENT AND BELIEVES THE US CAN SUPPORT THE MAJORITY VIEW IN THE FORTH-COMING DISCUSSIONS LEADING TO AN ORDERLY PHASEOUT OF SEATO. THE PLAN APPEARS OVERLY GENEROUS TO US IN RETAINING PERSONNEL LONGER THAN JUSTIFIED BY THE WORKLOAD. IN OUR VIEW, THE FY77 BUDGET WILL DETERMINE THE WORK PROGRAM AND THE STAFFING PATTERN AS IT RELATES TO TERMINATION DATES FOR BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL STAFF. ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE REMAINING WORKLOAD AND THE DIMINISHING NUMBERS OF STAFF  
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MUST BE KEPT UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW BY THE SEC GEN AND

THE PWG.

3. THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE PHASEOUT DOCUMENT ARE NOT AN ISSUE AT THE MOMENT SINCE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS HAVE NOT RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS EXCEPT FOR THE U.K. MEMBER WHO HAS BEEN GIVEN CONSIDERABLE LATITUDE. WE CAN ANTICIPATE SOME SAVINGS FROM THE FY75:76 BUDGET WHICH WILL BE APPLIED TO REDUCE THE SMALL SUPPLEMENTAL FOR SEVERANCE PAY BEFORE 30 JUNE 1976. WE EXPECT SOME REDUCTION IN THE FY77 BUDGET UNLESS SEATO HAS MISCALCULATED THE REQUIREMENT FOR TERMINATIONS AND RETIREMENTS.

4. THE PHYSICAL ASSETS, I.E. HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, CHATELLETS, ETC. WILL BE RESOLVED IN DUE COURSE. THE RTG IS REQUESTING MONEY IN THEIR OWN BUDGET TO PURCHASE THE BUILDING WHERE THEY PLAN TO INSTALL PART OF THEIR MFA. THE PHILIPPINES ARE NEGOTIATING THEIR INTEREST IN SOME OF THE CHATELLETS WITH THE RTG. THE RESIDUAL INTERESTS OF FRANCE IN THE PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THE BUILDING WILL BE SMALL AND, IN THE CASE OF PAKISTAN LESS SINCE THEY WERE IN ARREARS WHEN THE ABROGATED THE PACT.

5. OMITTING THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN PART IV OF THE PLAN, THERE IS MAJORITY SUPPORT IN THE PWG FOR THE CONTINUATION OF A MODEST SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRAM IN THE FY77 BUDGET. SOME OF THE PROGRAMS MAY BE PICKED UP BILATERALLY AND OTHERS BY AGENCIES OF THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES OVER THE COMING YEAR WHICH WOULD REDUCE THE SEATO COMMON BUDGET PROPORTIONATELY. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE ESTIMATED TOTAL COST OF US DOLS 114,710 IS JUSTIFIED THROUGH 30 JUNE 1977 AND RECOMMENDS U.S. SUPPORT FOR THIS PROGRAM.

6. THE OFFICE OF SECURITY AFFAIRS PRESENTS NO DIFFICULTY IN THAT THE EXERCISE PLANNING 6 SUPPORT DIVISIONS AND THE INTELLIGENCE AND INSURGENCY ANALYSIS DIVISION WILL BE DISESTABLISHED BY 30 JUNE 1976 IN RESPONSE TO THE DECISIONS OF THE TWENTIETH COUNCIL MEETING. THE ADVISORY AND TRAINING DIVISION, HOWEVER, REMAINS IN QUESTION. THE MAJORITY PWG VIEW DOES NOT SUPPORT THE THAI PROPOSAL FOR CONTINUATION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE SVDO UNDER SEATO SPONSORSHIP FOR ANOTHER YEAR NOR ARE THEY PERSUADED THAT THE DIVISION'S PARTICIPATION IN THE OTHER PROPOSED PROJECTS IS SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY BUDGETING FOR A FURTHER YEAR. THE THAI PWG MEMBER HAS NOT MADE A CONVINCING CASE FOR THE THAI REQUEST THAT THE ADVISORY AND TRAINING DIVISION BE FUNDED FOR FY77, AND HAS IMPLIED THAT THE RTG COULD ABSORB THESE ACTIVITIES IN THEIR OWN BUDGET BY OCTOBER 1976. THE EMBASSY AGREES WITH THE MAJORITY

THAT THIS DIVISION'S INPUT IS MARGINAL. WE RECOMMEND  
THAT THE US CONCUR IF THE MAJORITY FIND THAT THIS DIVISION  
COULD BE TERMINATED 30 JUNE 1976, UNLESS THE PHILIPPINES  
JOINS THAILAND AND THE TWO REGIONAL MEMBER COUNTRIES  
MAKE A STRONGER CASE. US LIAISON WITH THE SVOD,  
TSOC AND AW PAW PAW ACTIVITIES WILL, IN ANY EVENT,  
CONTINUE THROUGH EXISTING CHANNELS OUTSIDE THE SEATO AEGIES  
AS IN THE PAST.

7. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON  
THIS MESSAGE AND WELCOME ANY OTHER COMMENTS REGARDING THE  
SEATO PHASEOUT PLAN. WHITEHOUSE

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